

Lecture

- You have until Friday March 31 to talk to the TA regarding the grading of Midterm #1

Whois Servers in Grace

- Demo – whois server in solaris
- Demo – whois server in linux

Newsgroups

- ❖ Newsgroups – electronic discussion groups (bulletin boards) where user reads and post messages. A message “posted” by a user can be read by several people
- ❖ Usenet – network of newsgroups
- ❖ Messages posted on one newsgroup are distributed through the Usenet network
- ❖ Implemented in the early 80’s at Duke University
- ❖ Different topics covered by newsgroups
 - ❖ recreational
 - ❖ technical
 - ❖ social area
 - ❖ etc.

Newsgroups

- ❖ To access newsgroups you need
 - ❖ access to a news server
 - ❖ a news reader (client)
 - ❖ You must “subscribe” to the group
- ❖ News server must be maintained by a news administrator
 - ❖ Decides which groups will be delivered to a site
- ❖ Groups are assigned names in a hierarchical structure
 - ❖ A period used as a delimiter
 - ❖ Example: rec.arts.sf.starwars.collecting.vintage
 - ❖ rec – recreational group
 - ❖ arts – in an area of the arts
- ❖ Some groups are local while others have a world wide reach

Top Level for Names in News Groups

- ❖ rec – Arts, hobbies, etc.
- ❖ news – Usenet news
- ❖ comp – Computer topics
- ❖ soc – Social issues
- ❖ talk – Controversional topics
- ❖ sci – Scientific topics
- ❖ misc – Topics don't fit into any other category
- ❖ alt – Alternative groups – often specific to the site

Format for Posted Articles

- ❖ Two parts: header and body
- ❖ Header (some common fields)
 - ❖ Path: list of news servers involved in the transit of the article
 - ❖ From: Address of person that posted the message
 - ❖ Newsgroups: List of groups to which article was posted
 - ❖ Subject or Summary:
 - ❖ Organization: Company or school associated with the person who posted the article
 - ❖ Lines: Length of article in lines
 - ❖ Message ID: Id used by servers
 - ❖ MIME version: Mime version used for anything stored in MIME'd format
 - ❖ Approved: Login id and address of moderator in moderated group
- ❖ Usually regular ASCII text

Newsgroups

- ❖ A message posted to a news server can be read by users associated with that new server
- ❖ For other news server to read a message posted to a news server the server must share this information
- ❖ Sharing of articles between servers is done without action by the person posting an article
- ❖ News feed – process through which a news server exchanges articles with other news servers
- ❖ News administrator determines the frequency of the exchange
- ❖ Moderated groups – A message needs to be approved by a moderator before it is distributed

Newsgroups

- ❖ Description of how news servers work can be found at:
 - ❖ <http://members.fortunecity.com/nnqweb/how-it-works.html>
- ❖ The protocol for communication between news servers is called NNTP (Network News Transfer Protocol)
- ❖ NNTP
 - ❖ Uses a client/server model
 - ❖ Allows for requests and retrievals of news articles between servers
 - ❖ Allows indexing
 - ❖ Cross-referencing
 - ❖ Expiration of aged messages

Newsgroups

- ❖ In Unix system news groups support is via
 - ❖ .newsrc – provides a listing of newsgroups you want to read
 - ❖ trn, nn, or tin commands to access groups
 - ❖ Pnews – Unix command that allows you to post a message to a newsgroup
- ❖ Unix demo
- ❖ Several browsers or mail clients have newsreads
 - ❖ Netscape
 - ❖ Thunderbird
- ❖ Another approach is via <http://groups.google.com>

Wikis

- Wiki – Collaborative Web page
 - Example
- Forum
 - Promotes community communication
 - Example
- Blogs
 - Online “diaries”
 - Example
- Social Consequences of being online

In-Class Discussion

Let's do the in-class discussion